



February 2016

---

## **TARC General Meeting      February 9, 2016**

7:00pm

President Ron Roos, KJ6KNL, called the meeting to order. All were welcomed. A sign in sheet was sent around. All introduced themselves.

Grady Williams, K6IXA, was introduced for the evening presentation, D-Star and the DV Dongle.

Thank you Grady

January Minutes were passed around, the president asked for approval. Bambi, KI6YQL, made a motion to approve the minutes and Walter, KI6PBL, seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mike Smith, KG6VFL, gave the treasurer's Report. We have \$1337 in checking. There was a \$350 deposit for the Valentine's Dinner. Chris Coffin, K6CP, volunteered to go through the books from last year. Thank you Chris.

Spencer Boyd, KJ6ART, will be preparing the Educational Opportunity for next month's meeting.

Repeater Committee; Grady reported that all was in working order.

Auction; Grady mentioned that this year we would most likely be able to use the War Memorial Building, more info forth coming.

June 4<sup>th</sup> will be a 5K run hosted by Creative Alternatives – Grace Bishop Run. It will be held at the CSU Stanislaus at 8:00am. Please contact Reno, KG6BAA, at 209-484-2069 if you would like to assist with the TARC coverage.

Ken Stillwell, KF6IDK, announced that March 18<sup>th</sup> will be the next Merced ARES Meeting.

They also have their Thursday evening Net at 7:00pm on 147.030 +100 or 444.700 +94.8.

8:00pm

Ron Roos suggested we adjourn the meeting. Grady made a motion and Bambi seconded the motion. There were 33 in attendance.

---

## Featured Ham

Ed Darrah K7ERD

I entered ham radio as a novice, WN6SID, as was the custom in 1958. The test was administered by a ham who was a member of my church. The novice license was good for 1 yr only whereby you needed to upgrade to a general.

The General test was administered in San Francisco at the FCC office. Code: 13 wpm, 5 char blocks random characters with 1 minute of perfect copy req'd. I passed as WA6SID. I kept my license for 10 yrs wherein family, new house, and lots of overtime and college left no room for ham radio.

My work career started with 4 yrs in Air Force Crypto Maintenance followed by 3 yrs at IBM Corp at the San Jose plant. I was introduced to the disk drive business there and proceeded to work the next 30 yrs at a number of companies as a disk drive tech/engineer. Some of that was in Advanced Development. Those were the fun years.

In 1997 I got the ham radio bug again and passed the General test as KF6OTC. In 2011 I moved up to Extra Class. A Vanity call presented me with K7ERD.

My present station is a Kenwood TS-590SG driving a Cushcraft R-8 vertical. It replaced a Kenwood TS-830S system which will be up for sale.

VHF/UHF is covered by an Icom 208 and dual band vertical procured via Stan's, KJ6BKZ, shack.









---

## 5K Fun Run – Walk

Recently Reno, KG6BAA, was asked to assist with communication coverage for the first annual ‘Bee Positive’ Kayla Bernardi Memorial 5K Fun Run – Walk. This event took place at the Turlock high school and around Crane Park.



The theme for the run, 'Bee Positive' was chosen because Kayla Bernardi, 1/31/95 – 3/8/2015, was always so very active and busy. She also had a very positive attitude.

For a first annual event, there were an astonishing 665 registered runners.



The first runner, #1025, came in at 18mins 38secs.



This guy was juggling the entire race.

Nice job with the event Reno. I know it was appreciated by the event coordinators.

Reno would like to thank the following hams that participated:

Fernando Decouto, W6FRD

Lucian Thomas, KF6NPG

Brent Ocken, KJ6MRG

Stan Williams, KJ6BKZ



# Ham Radio History

In 1873, James Clerk Maxwell presented his theory of the electromagnetic field. In 1901 Guglielmo Marconi communicated across the Atlantic with a radio device using high power and giant antennas. To curb interference, Congress approved the Radio Act of 1912, which required amateurs to be licensed and restricted to the single wavelength of 200 meters. In 1914 the [American Radio Relay League](#) was founded by Hiram Percy Maxim, who found that messages could be sent more reliably over long distances if relay stations were organized.

Transatlantic transmitting and receiving tests began in 1921 and by July 1960 the first two-way contact via the Moon took place on 1296 MHz.

Today we're on CW, phone, SSB, FM, packet, TV, PACTOR, PSK31, RTTY, and other modes, bouncing signals off the ground, ionosphere, and the Moon. Hams are active in nearly every country of the world and from ages less than 10 years to more than 100.



## SEEKING WISDOM II

by Dick Decker K6SUU

Failing to find even a modicum of wisdom at the Merced Mall “Coffee with the Hams”, last month, I decided to venture further afield. Stan was tied up trying to raise the living standard of the medical establishment, so I decided to venture out alone. It occurred to me that a society that measures their history in thousands of years versus our hundreds of years might be the place to find wisdom. India was the chosen destination.

I went to India January 8 and returned February 12. The round trip ticket was \$642.00, less than a ticket to the East Coast! There is only so much I am willing to pay for wisdom! I spent a week in Mumbai ((Bombay to old goats like Grady), 10 days in Igatpuri-3 hour train ride out of Mumbai, 10 days in Goa-8 hours south of Mumbai and lastly, a week back in Mumbai to pick up trinkets for the grand kids.

Mumbai is one of the largest cities in the world. I think the population was about one million people. I stayed in South Mumbai in an area called Colaba. Its kind of the touristy area with lots of shops and places to buy junk. I read the Lonely Planet travel book on South India and found a hotel the book said the locals place their relatives when they come into town. The average hotel price in Mumbai is very expensive at \$100+ a night. My 3 star family place was \$25 a night. Seeking wisdom at the least cost.

As it turns out the so called “Best vegetarian restaurant in Mumbai” per the Lonely Planet travel book was two blocks from my hotel. The vegetarian food was outstanding and way better than any non-vegetarian restaurant here in the states. I didn't realize it at the time, but after a week of vegetarian food my blood sugar went from about 100 average to 85 average. Completely normal for the first time in many years.

After checking out Mumbai I jumped on a train to Igatpuri where I planned to attend a 10 day seminar on the Vipassana meditation technique. I had read a lot of material on the current research being undertaken on this technique in US universities and I was impressed with the amazing changes in stress and concentration. Maybe this would be the wisdom I sought.



The 10 day seminar turned out to be the roughest course I have even taken. It went from 4 AM in the morning to 8:30 PM at night! Roughly 4 hours of instruction and 10 ½ hours of meditation practice every day for 10 days. I meditate in a chair whereas most of the participants meditate cross legged on the floor. My lower back was in pretty severe pain from the second day to the fifth day. The vast majority of folks on the floor were in much worse pain than I, based on conversations.



I should mention this was a full immersion experience. There were only three other white guys out of close to 600 participants. Virtually everyone was Indian, mostly from Mumbai. The women and the men were separated and even had separate dining halls. I heard different reasons for this, but the best one I heard was the women would bite the men if they got mad!



The first surprise I got was when I met a lot of the other participants. Most were either university graduates-engineers etc. or current university students. The second surprise was how many of them were there for their second or more 10 day seminar. I met one guy who was attending his tenth seminar! They all told me they would not be repeating the seminar if the technique did not work. Maybe this is the wisdom I have sought!

After the seminar I took a sleeper train from Igatpuri down to Goa, about a 12 hour train trip! One funny story is I was in the Igatpuri train station and my train pulled in but it had about 20 cars and I was frantically looking for my coach number. Just then I heard a voice behind me say “Can I help you?” I turned around to see a federal policeman complete with bulletproof vest, an M15 and two side arms with a smile on his face. I said I didn't know where my car was located. He said “follow me” and we took off at a trot down the length of the train. He said “here” and we entered one car. He walked me in the car to my berth and said “you sit here”. About 5 Indian families with kids had a startled look on their faces and immediately parted to let me sit down. I spent the rest of the train trip explaining to the families I was just a tourist, not an arch criminal!





My sleeper train arrived in the morning at a city named Vasco De Gama. The Goa area is incredibly interesting because it was a Portuguese colony from 1524, when the Portagees first arrived, to 1961 when they left and gave the colony back to India. The Portagees built the first Catholic cathedral around 1575 and Saint Francis Xaviers' body is entombed and on display there. The built a second cathedral in the same area in 1600.

The Portuguese houses are now protected by law and are preserved as part of India's history.



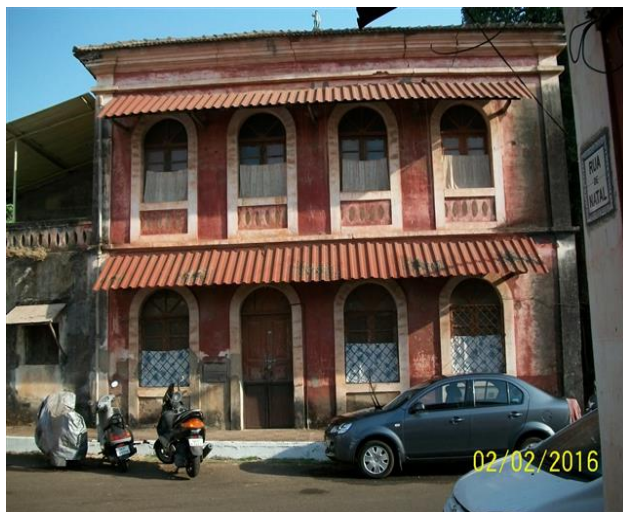


I attended a weeks cooking school in a small town called “Dabolim” and the woman who owned it, Rita Shinde, grew up in a Portuguese speaking house and still spoke fluent Portuguese and didn't learn Hindi, the Indian language, until she started to attend school. When the Portuguese left in 1961 they left an agreement that anyone who could prove Portuguese heritage could get a free Portuguese passport for life. Many Indians from this area used this right to move to Europe. Rita Shindes mother moved to the UK on her Portuguese passport after Rita got married. The blend of Portuguese and Indian foods was extremely tasty.



Goa is also an Indian vacation resort with all kinds of beaches. Indian tourists were the majority of the tourists. European and American tourists were few and far between. Here are a few of the preserved Portuguese houses.





I then went back to Mumbai and spent a week eating more vegetarian food and picking up touristy junk to bring back.

My overall impression of India was a country of extremely friendly people that went way out of their way to offer to help in any way they could. I cannot count the amount of times local people said to me “Can I help you?”

They are also very family oriented and take very good care of their kids. The English left them with a heritage of education a lot like the English left us in the US. I was amazed at the amount of university educated people I met.

I did not get sick in India, which I am told is rare. My Indian friends told me “Do not eat anything that is not cooked and served hot” I followed that rule even with the vegetarian food. It was really hard because the Indian street food was plentiful and looked really good. The amount of sweets for sale was amazing. No wonder they have the most amount of diabetics in the world.

The ending to the story is not so funny. While I did not get sick in India, I was not so lucky on the plane back to SFO. I flew from Mumbai to Beijing and then from Beijing to SFO. The fish dinner on the flight from Beijing to SFO didn't look right, but I ate it anyway. Big mistake. First time I ever got sick on an airplane and it was not a fun trip back!

I was never so happy to land back on American soil!